

[10th December 1923]

PENSION.*Memorial from the Government pensioners.*

11 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state if the Government have received a memorial from the Government pensioners to increase their pensions and whether they have any intention of giving effect to the same to any extent whatever?

A.—The Government of India sanctioned a scheme for the relief of pensioners in receipt of the smaller pensions in January 1921 and this has been in operation since. It was declared to be subject to reconsideration at the close of three years and reconsideration is now in progress. Pending final orders, the Government of India have authorized the continuance of the payment of increased pensions whether they are chargeable to Central or Provincial revenues.

Some memorials have been received requesting the continuance of the temporary relief and others asking for an increase in the scale. These will be dealt with on receipt of the final orders of the Government of India.

POLICE.*Punitive police in Kurnool.*

12 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARAMANA REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether any proposals have been submitted to Government for the imposition of punitive police in the Koilkuntla and Sirvel taluks of the Kurnool district;

(2) if so, the grounds on which the imposition of punitive police has been recommended;

(3) whether any orders have been issued by Government regarding that matter; and

(4) if so, what orders have been issued?

A.—(1) Yes.

(2) The hon. Member is referred to the answer of question No. 2 which gives the reason for the District Magistrate's recommendation.

(3) No.

(4) The question does not arise.

Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARAMANA REDDI:—"Will the hon. the Law Member hear me privately before any order is passed by the Government?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I have no objection, Mr. President."

RAILWAYS.*Railway programme for the Madras Presidency.*

13 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether there is any programme of railway construction for the Madras Presidency and, if so, whether any, and, if so, what district board railway schemes are included in it?

10th December 1923]

A.—The question of a programme of railway construction in the Presidency, including district board lines, has been under discussion with the Railway Board for a considerable time and it is hoped that a decision will shortly be made.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Sir, the decision is expected to be made shortly. May I have a little more precise information as regards the probable time ? ”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“ The decision referred to is of the Railway Board and the Government of India. I do not know how long it will take.”

Duties of Secretary to Government (Railways) and Inspector of Railways.

14 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what the duties are of—

- (i) the Secretary to Railways, Public Works Department ; and
- (ii) the Government Inspector of Railways ; and whether they contemplate the abolition of either of the posts ; and if so, which of them ?

A.—(i) The Senior Government Inspector of Railways, Madras, who is also the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department (Railways), assists Government in his latter capacity in disposing of all references to the Government of Madras on Railway matters. A proposal to abolish this post of Secretary to Government, Public Works Department (Railways), is under the consideration of the Government.

(ii) The Government Inspector of Railways is under the direct control of the Railway Board and not subordinate to the Local Government.

III

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY laid on the table a copy of the order made by the hon. the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 6th December 1923. *

IV

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I have to inform the House that the following members have been elected as members of the Finance Committee at the election held on the 29th November 1923 :—

Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.	Mr. C. Nicholson.
Janab Muhammad Yahya Ali Sahib.	Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatarreddi
Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.	Nayudu, Kt.
	Dr. P. Subbarayan.”

* Printed as Appendix A on page 237 infra.